CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for synchronizing a system including plural server modules, comprising:

receiving notification information at a first server module regarding a change in the system;

acting on the notification information in the first server module; and

propagating the notification information from the first server module to at least a second server module,

wherein the notification information comprises an indication of whether or not at least one application used by the system is available to service user requests.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the acting on the notification information in the first server module comprises:

uploading the notification information into at least one application store associated with at least one respective application provided by the first server module.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the propagating comprises transferring the notification information using a first queue provided by the first server module to a second queue provided by the second server module.

4. The method according to claim 1, further comprising acting on the notification information in the second server module.

5. The method according to claim 4, wherein the acting on the notification information in the second server module comprises uploading the notification information into at least one application store associated with at least one respective application provided by the second server module.

6. The method according to claim 1, further including repeating the propagating for at least one additional server module in the system.

7. A computer readable medium including machine readable instructions for implementing the receiving, acting and propagating of claim 1.

8. A method for synchronizing a system including plural server modules, comprising:

forwarding first status information reflecting a state in a first server module to a second server module;

merging the first status information with second status information, where the second status information reflects a state of the second server module, to produce merged information;

sending the merged information from the second server module to the first server module; and

acting on the merged information at the first server module.

9. The method according to claim 8, wherein the first and second status information includes notification information regarding a change in the system.

10. The method according to claim 9, wherein the notification information comprises an indication of whether or not at least one application used by the system is available to service user requests.

11. The method according to claim 8, wherein the forwarding of first status information is prompted by the first server module becoming active after having remained inactive for some time.

12. The method according to claim 8, wherein the merging comprises combining the first status information with the second status information to provide a non-duplicative union of the first status information and the second status information.

13. The method according to claim 8, wherein the acting comprises uploading the merged information into at least one application store associated with at least one respective application provided by the first server module.

14. The method according to claim 8, further comprising repeating the forwarding, merging, sending and acting for at least one other server module.

15. A computer readable medium including machine readable instructions for implementing the forwarding, merging, sending and acting of claim 8.

16. A method of advising a user of the availability of an application in a system including plural server modules, comprising:

receiving, at a server module in the system, a user's request for an application;

consulting an application store associated with the application to determine whether the application is unavailable, and, if so generating a response; and

forwarding the response to the user, wherein each of the plural server modules in the system maintains its own respective application store.

17. A computer readable medium including machine readable instructions for implementing the receiving, consulting and forwarding of claim 16.

18. A synchronization module implemented on a first server module in a system including plural server modules, comprising:

repeater logic configured to:

receive notification information pertaining to a change in the system;

upload the notification information into at least one application store associated with at least one respective application; and

propagate the notification information from the first server module to at least a second server module,

wherein the notification information uploaded to said at least one application store comprises an indication of whether or not said at least one application is available to service user requests.

19. The synchronization module according to claim 18, further including a message queue, wherein the repeater module is configured to receive the notification information and propagate the notification information using the message queue.

20. The synchronization module according to claim 18, wherein the synchronization module is configured to propagate the notification information to at least one other server module in the system.

21. A computer readable medium including machine readable instructions for implementing the repeater logic of claim 18.

22. A synchronization module for synchronizing a system including plural server modules, comprising:

merge logic configured to:

forward first status information reflecting a state in a first server module to a second server module; and

receive merged information from the second server module, wherein the merged information reflects a merging of the first status information with second status information, the second status information reflecting a state of the second server module; and

a repeater module configured to act on the merged information.

23. The synchronization module according to claim 22, wherein the first and second status information includes notification information regarding a change in the system.

24. The synchronization module according to claim 23, wherein the notification information comprises an indication of whether or not at least one application used by the system is available to service user requests.

25. The synchronization module according to claim 22, wherein the merge logic is configured to send the first status information when the first server module becomes active after have remained inactive for a predetermined time.

26. The synchronization module according to claim 22, wherein the repeater module is configured to act on the merged information by uploading the merged information into at least one application store associated with at least one respective application provided by the first server module.

27. The synchronization module according to claim 22, wherein the merge logic is configured to repeat the forwarding and receiving for at least one other server module.

28. A computer readable medium including machine readable instructions for implementing the merge logic of claim 22.

29. A server module for advising a user of the availability of an application in a system including plural server modules, comprising:

an application store associated with the application;

logic configured to receive, at a first server module in the system, a user's request for an application;

logic configured to consult the application store to determine whether the application is unavailable, and, if so, to generate a response; and

logic configured to forward the response to the user,

wherein each of the plural server modules in the system maintains its own respective application store.

30. A computer readable medium including machine readable instructions for implementing the receiving, consulting and forwarding of claim 29.